

Good Morning. What a world we live in. Beauty and destruction, peace and conflict, abundance and scarcity, affluence and destitution, sorrow and joy. Unfortunately, we would not really know one, without the other. Evil shadows the actions of the good, and peace falls in the pain of conflict.

We seem to be more and more aware of these extremes as our news services bring us daily face to face with events from around the world, famine, disease, war and suffering, but also in amongst all that, we hear of goodness, care, compassion and selflessness. The work of Red Cross, Red Crescent, Christian Aid, UNHR, and on and on, all supported by contributions from across the globe. In amongst the evil, there is far more good.

The news brings us information which 50 years ago we would never have heard. The film on a mobile phone of a policeman with his knee on a man's neck, dying slowly unable to breathe. This has awakened such a wave of outrage across the world, people cry out in anger and pain – enough! Centuries of injustice, prejudice, suffering, slavery and abuse against black skinned people by white skinned people have surfaced in a wave of protest across the world. Mainly peaceful, but also some actions within the shadow of evil.

Much of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century wealth of the West of Scotland was built on our colonisation of the countries of dark skinned people, Africa and India, and slavery played a major part, certainly in the cotton and tobacco trades, and also directly in the export of people in slavery from Africa to America. We cannot erase that past, we cannot undo the actions of our forbears, and we enjoy the financial comfort it has brought us, but we can behave now in ways to demonstrate our abhorrence at the mistreatment of one peoples by another. We can strive to understand the anger in the souls of our black and ethnic minority neighbours, and we can stand alongside them as they shout for justice, for equality – for the removal of all our unfounded prejudices and discrimination. We can also look to remove, or explain, the presence of monuments to those who profited, and were actively involved in the abuse and enslavement of others for financial gain. We have to consider that this is not a protest of black against white, this is a rebellion of good against evil, in which we are all involved,

We do not need to look far into our scriptures, our Bible, our words from God, to find direction. Genesis Chapter 1 vs 26 – “*Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;....”*”. Man in the image of God – not some men, but God's creation of all – Men and Women.

V 27 – “*so God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female”*”

Quite clear – people, men and women, all made in God's image. There is no basis for anything short of absolute equality, respect, honour and recognition of all people by all people.

When it comes to our consideration of inequality, segregation, abuse, enslavement, prejudice, domination of one people by another, we have Jesus agreeing with a young lawyer saying – “*Love God..... and love your neighbour as yourself*”, Luke 10 vs 27. These rules were quoted directly from the early Hebrew scriptures of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, so not some new ideas, even then!

The early church was not free from the tendency to say some people are better than others, and Paul stamps on this adamantly to root it out. He writes to Galatia – “*For you are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ..... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ*”. Galatians ch 3 v26 – 28.

So, there are demonstrations in cities all round the world, and yes, there is disregard for the possible spread of Covid 19, which will have consequences, and yes, there is violence and damage to people and property, by a minority, but these actions fall into the evil shadow of all that is good – they are evil and should be stopped, but think too of the overwhelming good which is arising from all this.

Let us pray that this outpouring of rage and frustration, these peaceful expressions of revolt and challenge to lifestyles and establishments, will call forth a repentance, a turning round, a revolution in all our cultures to root out once and for all the systemic and ingrained prejudices and preconceptions of superiority of one peoples over another. That each person will see the other as brothers and sisters in the image of God. We are all one in Christ.

## **Ecumenical Prayer**

The Moderator, Rev Martin Fair, led an ecumenical prayer time on Sunday supported by the leaders of all the Christian denominations in Scotland. This is the prayer:

God whose name is Love,  
You make yourself known to us  
As the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Sustain us in the knowledge of your love through the times in which we live.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose love endures,  
May we hear the words of your Son  
That echo down the ages:  
I am with you always, to the very end of the age.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose love is generous,  
You gift to us your Holy Spirit,  
The very giver of Life.  
Renew our lives and the life of the community in which we share.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose love is steadfast,  
You know us as we are for you have made us.  
In your compassion, be with all who struggle and grieve at this time.  
Remember them and hold them safe in your keeping.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose love is from everlasting to everlasting,  
Give strength to the weary and power to the weak,  
That we might renew our strength  
And soar on wings like eagles.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose love inspires,  
May we love you with all that we are  
And love our neighbour in response to your love.  
Through our service of others, may your love be revealed.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Amen

## **eXp – Summer Kickstart:**

Here is news of an event for young people across Argyll. Please let all your friends with teenagers, your grandchildren, and any others who come to mind, know about this on line event to which all are invited.

**From:** Susan Whyte [mailto:susan.whyte@expyouthwork.org.uk] **Sent:** 08 June 2020 14:49 **To:** Pres. Argyll [Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
**Subject:** eXp Summer Kickstart

### **eXpressions from eXp**

*'We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.'*

In the past few months we have all been facing the challenge of change – adapting or not, each according to our ministry, our calling and our limitations (self-imposed or imposed on us by the necessity of these times). eXp – Experiencing Faith on Cowal; your youthwork partner has adapted greatly and many of these adaptations will continue and evolve even more over the months to come. We are thankful for all of your interest & encouraging words, for your prayers and input. The future is bright and hopeful.

We will be finishing off term time activities with a special online event called '**eXp Summer Kickstart**' on **June 29th**. I am attaching a poster which we hope you will share, perhaps even print off and find a place to hang in your community but this must be done quickly as the deadline for registration is the 21st of June.

For any question, please don't hesitate to get in touch. It is our hope to run eXp Summer Camp online in a similar manner. Please pray for the ongoing preparation of this. Pray that young people will choose to engage with it. Pray for those who are already volunteering their time to be a part of its leadership (if you would like to help let me know as soon as possible please). Pray that God would be glorified in it.

Leaving each day in gratitude,

Susan Whyte

Address: 130b John Street, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 7BN

Email: [susan.whyte@expyouthwork.org.uk](mailto:susan.whyte@expyouthwork.org.uk)

Mobile: 07470 593935

## **Presbytery Moderator: Rev Owain Jones**

Dear friends,

Someone – a Minister, of course! – said “The Sundays, they do come with an awful regularity...” Well so do Wednesdays, all of a sudden, for me!

We will all take different things from the news, and our sense of where we, our families and friends, our congregations and communities, our society, might be will be different for each one of us.

For me, this week, it's been the sense of a change, of the beginnings of the easing of lockdown, of the return of a sense of movement – and also the anxiety that things could easily and suddenly start going backwards, and in saying that, I'm not trying to “rain on the parade”.

There are new, good things, but things are not straightforward. Things are not straightforward, but there are new, good things. That's where I am, in my head, this week, and I wonder if you are too?

I offer this reflection hoping that we are all in a roughly similar place.

Here we are as a Presbytery, virtual but vibrant, and very, very real! And we know that it's the same with our congregations, despite the real anxieties of the times. And, as Douglas identified, it's good, each week, to sit together in the moment we have been brought to by events, and by God, and simply open our minds and souls to the reality in which we find ourselves.

I'm not able to live-stream at 12 tomorrow; I have a funeral on the mainland. I intend to video and upload this prayer so that you can use it – or not! – at 12 tomorrow, or at any time. Let me know – and keep letting me know – what's useful.

And again, thank you for your prayers. You have mine.

Yours in the adventure of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owain Jones', with a horizontal line underneath.

### **Prayer**

We lean, Lord, on the patterns

of scripture, and of faith:  
repeating patterns, though never the same;  
as old as your dealings with your people;  
as fresh and new as our experience today;  
framing our faith, grounding our trust,  
equipping us to be your people in the world.

You are the God of the Exodus –  
but before they could be brought out  
to the freedom which is your gift,  
your people had to be shown  
that you had been listening, hearing,  
*with them, all along.*  
They had to meet you afresh;  
they had to re-learn who they were.

Have we done this?

You are the God who overthrew  
Your people's bitter exile,  
But they had to be reminded,  
By the waters of Babylon,  
Powerless and overawed by their captivity and smallness,  
How all things are in your hands.

Have we grasped this?

You are the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead,  
But before they could begin to grasp this,  
The disciples had to have their old assumptions shattered,  
To relinquish old, cramped, comfortable understandings,  
Too small, like Jesus' grave  
To contain the Risen Christ.

They had to let go, in order to receive.

Can we do this?

In this pause, just before things might change,  
Help us to reflect on what we have been taught,  
On what we take with us on our journey from here,  
And what we must leave behind.

We have come this week to a moment:  
Stage One – soon, we hope, Stage Two...  
Expectation mounts!  
Are we slowly beginning to emerge, Lord?  
Dates and times and promises  
may fluctuate, and advance, and retreat;  
“What if the R-number increases?”  
“What if we were thrown back into lockdown?”

Jesus, we remember, taught the disciples,  
outside Caesarea Philippi:

***hope is difficult for our human family,***

because we corrupt it into wishing, and dreaming, and specifying closely,  
what we want, and when we want it.

Wishes, and longings, and impatience  
meld dangerously into a counterfeit of hope.

It's simple things we all long for.

Offering and accepting an invitation into a home,  
the unthinkingly proffered hand to shake not recoiled from,  
withdrawn in fluster and embarrassment;  
the simple ability to drive round and check properly  
on those we love.

We pray these things come quickly,  
but more than that, that they come *when it is safe they should*.

For all, and for *all among us*, who shield, -  
disappointed, even distraught at the postponing, of that safe day,  
when careful, joyful emergence back into the outside world  
becomes possible, we pray.  
Let it come soon.

We pray – and this is hard, Lord –  
for those tempted to push the envelope,  
to go right up to, and sometimes flagrantly beyond,  
those hard, challenging boundaries that have kept us safe.  
Temper our anger and indignation  
at their folly and yes, their self-centredness,  
with Christ's compassion;  
they know not what they do.  
Their actions appal us;  
Their selfishness endangers us all;  
their frustration is ours.  
Lord, bring light, restraint, care and consideration for others.  
Father, forgive.

We pray especially for those who have to cope with,  
And deal with, and police such selfishness.

We remember especially the police, this week.

We pray for all those who sustain the life of society.

It's usually so helpful – but sometimes too easy –  
to list them before you in prayer.

Today, instead we seek the Spirit's leading;  
Surprise us, as we enfold all those who help, and sustain,  
and work through this crisis, to serve others.

Let us discover in prayer some of those we have, inevitably, we know,  
overlooked...

***I would suggest that we keep a brief silence at this point, and pray, individually and silently, for those who care for others, serve society, and work to overcome the pandemic.***

We know that we shall be brought through.  
We have seen the deep patterns of Scripture.

We pray for our congregations, whose business is hope,  
hope in a world where hope is at a premium;  
for office-bearers and devoted members,  
who balance hope with responsibility and anxiety,  
we pray for our Church, and for the whole Church, in all her traditions.  
Help us to witness to our neighbours and communities  
the hope that hopes where we do not know the day or the hour,  
but knows that the day will come.

And as Jesus taught us, we say – and know that others will be saying –  
His prayer:

***Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done;  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
For ever.  
Amen.***



## **Weekly Prayer rota and notices from Presbytery:**

**From:** Pres. Argyll

**Sent:** 12 June 2020 17:43

**To:** Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>

**Subject:** Presbytery Prayer Rota and Intimations

### **Presbytery Prayer Rota**

**Sunday 14 June 2020**

**Please pray for the following congregations and their ministers:**

**Kilchrenan & Dalavich:** Minister – Rev Tom Telfer

**Skipness:** Interim Moderator - Rev Chris Fulcher

### **Intimations**

- **Rev Owain Jones, Moderator of Presbytery calls presbyters to weekly prayer together on Wednesdays at Noon. Prayer is on the Presbytery Website and will be circulated to Presbyters and Session Clerks.**
- **The Deliverances of Presbytery meeting of 2 June 2020 are attached.**
- **Presbytery Facebook Page:** If anyone wishes something posted on the Presbytery Facebook Page **please contact either**  
**Liz Gibson** ([egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk))  
**or Scott Burton** ([Sburton@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Sburton@churchofscotland.org.uk)).

- **Social Distancing Choir**

Please see the note below which I received from Rev Andy Campbell, and an invitation to join in:

The Social Distancing Choir started on the first Sunday of lockdown, when I realized I had missed hearing and singing songs in praise of God. I invited neighbours to go out into their gardens and sing to God, and for their neighbours across hedges and roads. And it just kept going, so now I send out an email to fifty folk and many of them forward it on. So I know of folk across Argyll, Perthshire and Stirlingshire who now sing at 6.55pm on Sunday's and there is a couple in Leamington down south and as of last Sunday, Vancouver, Canada.

There's no reason why you shouldn't forward it - or indeed sing with us!!

Hi everyone,

Definitely a Sunday 6.55pm. (BST) "Sing" for all former and present Boys Brigade members, families, supporters and friends - It's 'Will your anchor hold In the storms of life' which is number 737 in CH4 ; and the choice of Richard and Edythe Bingham from Oban who are original members of the SDC.

The words come from a lady named Priscilla Owens of Baltimore in the US and were penned in 1882 while the usual tune was written by William Kirkpatrick of Philadelphia, but who was born in Northern Ireland.

The hymn was adopted by the Boys Brigade, Christian youth Organisation which was founded in Glasgow in 1883 : and also adopted by Dollar Academy who decided the melody should be called The Dollar Anthem !! 😊

The inspiration of the lyrics can be found in the New Testament - Letter to the Hebrews Ch 6 vs 19 Definitely a Social Distance Choir hymn that will benefit from being sung with enthusiasm and volume across roads hedges and gardens, to create memories in our listeners and hopefully to please God!

God bless and take care

Andy

Campbell

- **Online services available from Argyll**

**The following services are being provided online for local congregations and those who wish to log in from places further afield:**

**West Kintyre and Gigha – Rev Scott Burton -**<https://www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org/> Worship

**The United Church of Bute – Rev Owain Jones -** <https://www.unitedchurchofbute.org.uk/>

**The Shore Kirk – Rev Janet MacKellar –**  
or <https://sites.google.com/view/theshorekirk/home>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/345399762209092/>

**Ardchattan lw Coll lw Connel – Rev Willem Bezuidenhout** <https://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/>

**West Cowal – Rev David Mitchell**  
<https://www.westcowalchurches.org.uk>

**South Kintyre – Rev Steve Fulcher**  
[www.kintyreparishes.org.uk](http://www.kintyreparishes.org.uk)

**Netherlorn Churches Worship Team**  
<http://www.netherlornchurches.org.uk/>

**West Lochfyneside:**  
<https://www.westlochfyneside.org.uk>

**Kilmore and Oban: Rev Dugald Cameron**  
[www.obanchurch.com](http://www.obanchurch.com)

**Barra and South Uist : Rev Lindsay Schluter(audio only)**

Can be accessed via telephone (01871-200336) or the South Uist website  
([www.southuistchurchofscotland.com](http://www.southuistchurchofscotland.com) )

**eXp facebook page:** - a worship and discipleship resource for young people.

<https://www.facebook.com/expdunoon/>

## **Daily Hope line**

It is introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are three options, you can:

1. Listen to a well-known hymn being sung then listen to a reflection on it, about 15 minutes.
2. Listen to well-known hymns being sung and sing along.
3. Listen to a prayer relevant to today's world

This service is called Daily Hope, the phone number is **0800 804 8044** Phone calls are free.

### **Keep Safe**

Stewart  
W Stewart Shaw DL  
Clerk to the Presbytery of Argyll  
Registered Scottish Charity SC001424

You can find news on our church website: [www.northknapdale.org](http://www.northknapdale.org)

And our Face Book page – [North Knapdale Church](#).

If you would like any articles put into the newsletter please send it to [sessionclerk@northknapdale.org](mailto:sessionclerk@northknapdale.org), or phone 01546 870647

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002